

to 300 units of life saving blood for area hospitals. As the single-largest source of blood in the Las Vegas valley since the 2000 school year, the school district's principals, superintendents, and class leaders have also responded to the needs of cancer patients and burn victims by facilitating an ample supply of platelets and plasma.

I am proud to represent such conscientious and dedicated volunteers and wish them continued success in their work for the people of Southern Nevada.

SALUTE TO LOUIS P.  
BARTOLOTTA, SR.

**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served his country and who remains a role model for his family and community.

I speak of Louis P. Bartolotta, Sr. Louis is a veteran of the Second World War. He was born the son of immigrant parents in 1918. He married his wife Ida in 1941, just three months before Pearl Harbor. This year they will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary.

On November 26th, 1943, he was aboard a British transport ship, the HMT *Rohna*, when the vessel was attacked by a German bomber off the coast of North Africa. Over one thousand United States service members and more than 100 British and Allied officers and crewmembers lost their lives in the attack. Louis is a survivor of that tragic day. In October of 2000, Congress recognized the heroic sacrifices made by those who lost their lives, the survivors and their families in House Concurrent Resolution 408.

Today Louis and Ida live in Boynton Beach, Florida. At the end of May, as we dedicate the World War II Memorial, they will visit Washington, D.C. to participate in the Rohna Survivors convention.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the veterans of World War II please let us add to those tributes those who lost their lives on the HMT *Rohna* as well as those who survived, like my dear friend Louis.

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY  
VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LADY CARDS BASKETBALL  
TEAM

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the Lady Cards basketball team from Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Basketball National Championship.

The top ranked Lady Cards capped off a perfect 36-0 season with a 77-66 victory over Gulf Coast, Florida, in the title game of the NJCAA Women's Championship.

The Lady Cards' victory is Trinity Valley Community College's fifth national title in

women's basketball and the college's second undefeated season. The Lady Cards have an unbelievable 66-1 record over the last two seasons and currently hold a 78-game regular season winning streak.

I would like to recognize team members Jennifer Harris, LeKeisha Carter, Chanae Early, Daiane Packer, Alona Obaze, LaCourtney Ratliff, Vanessa Silva, Vanessa Clementino, Yolanda Jones, Ashley Streetman, and Jennifer Jones.

I would also like to recognize the head coach of the Lady Cards basketball team, Michael Landers, who was named the 2004 Women's Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Coach Landers has amassed an impressive 352-24 record over his career and 126-8 record in his four years at Trinity Valley Community College.

Congratulations to Coach Landers and the Lady Cards on their remarkable undefeated season in 2004 and their tremendous National Championship victory.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN CARLOS  
GONZÁLEZ LEIVA

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Juan Carlos González Leiva, a pro-democracy activist "sentenced" by a sham court yesterday in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Leiva is a blind lawyer who has devoted his life to the cause of human rights and liberty for every Cuban. He is the president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Though Mr. González Leiva is unable to see, his vision of a free Cuba is an inspiration to freedom loving people throughout the world.

On March 4, 2002, Mr. González Leiva was savagely beaten and locked in the totalitarian gulag for drawing attention to a journalist who had been admitted to a local hospital after being attacked by the tyrant's thugs. For over two years, Mr. González Leiva languished in Castro's totalitarian gulag. His cane and Bible were confiscated; he was forced to sleep on the floor of his diabolical cell; the thugs who run the gulag threatened his life; and he was tortured with chemical substances. In a letter recorded by his wife, and that I brought to the attention of the House, Mr. González Leiva describes the heinous conditions of the totalitarian gulag in this translated excerpt from that letter:

State security used inmate Joe Prado, as he calls himself, to throw in my cell a substance that produced a burning sensation on the skin and nasal congestion, a great deal of phlegm and bronchial inflammation. The situation still continues.

Since January, they have added another substance to the sawdust they throw at me. This one gives me the sensation of millions of bugs constantly running all over me. It causes a great deal of itching and prevents me from sleeping. I do not know if this is a biological substance or chemical agent, but I know it is not insects because when I touch my skin there are no actual bugs that I can feel, although this sensation is palpable.

Normally the sawdust shower is a daily occurrence. Yesterday it started around 6:00

p.m. when I was on my knees praying. The sensation is that of a multitude of bugs suddenly coming down on my face and my body. This torment continues until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.

Mr. González Leiva was trapped in these brutal conditions for over two years before he was ever tried. I want to repeat that, Mr. González Leiva was locked in the totalitarian gulag for over two years before he was even brought before a sham court.

According to an AP story that appeared in the April 28 edition of The Miami Herald, Mr. González Leiva "was released on parole shortly after being sentenced to four years in prison." Let us be very clear about parole in totalitarian Cuba. Parole is not freedom; it is a temporary release, conditioned on constant observation, before being locked in the gulag again.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. González Leiva has been imprisoned for over two years without trial and "convicted" by a sham court because he believes in basic human rights for every Cuban. My Colleagues, we must demand true freedom for Juan Carlos González Leiva, every prisoner of conscience languishing in the totalitarian gulag, and every Cuban suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime.

ISRAEL WEEK

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the conclusion of Israel Week. From April 18th through April 27th, we commemorate the lasting friendship and mutual goals of freedom, democracy and peace that we share with Israel.

This is a time for both celebration and reflection beginning with Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and ending with Yom Hazikharon, Israel's National Memorial Day for the Fallen Victims of Terror. What we remember during Israel Week is not simply Jewish or Israeli history; it is a shared history of the struggle to overcome oppression, tyranny and hatred. I believe this message is significant to all peoples of the world. We remember the events of our shared history so that we may work together to end the fear, hatred and violence that plague our world.

The United States and Israel have been allies since the United States first recognized Israel as an independent state in 1948. Since that time, our two countries have grown closer as a result of our shared democratic, religious and cultural values. As we move towards our seventh decade of friendship, I believe the United States must take an active role in helping to achieve permanent security and peace for Israel and its neighbors.

Israel Week is not only a time to remember the past; it is a time to look toward the future. We must continue to actively pursue the dream we all share of peace, freedom and security.